



Our new normal

Federica Napolitani

Editor in Chief

Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome, Italy

Contact: federica.napolitani@iss.it

Several months have passed since the coronavirus outbreak revolutionised our habits, and it now seems possible to timidly start making some initial assessments.

Although many things have changed, morphed in more ways than one, our capacity to adapt and to accept is driving us towards a place where we might call all of this, our new normal.

We have had to confront changes that, albeit already underway before the outbreak, were massively accelerated and enlarged. We had to deal with innovations that were abruptly introduced to cope with the new safety measures and health issues risen. Above all, social distancing deeply affected the way we relate, work, travel and are at leisure. How have libraries dealt with all this? How did they manage to cope with the practical difficulties imposed, just to cite a few, by the notion of smart working and the many safety procedures implemented? How did they meet the new needs of users? And also, which other sectors in the field of knowledge transmission have been affected (for instance, science publishing)?

This present issue of *JEAHIL* attempts to provide an answer. Petra Wallgren Bjork (Karolinska Institutet University Library, Stockholm, Sweden) and Gerhard Bissels (University of Applied Sciences of the Grisons, Chur, Switzerland), both members of the Editorial Board, have guest-edited an excellent monographic section on "The role of libraries during the COVID-19 pandemic". Undoubtedly, it was not an easy task for them to organise the issue, nor for the authors to write their paper, in such a short time. This September issue, in fact, should have been dedicated to the EAHIL June Conference. I'm sure that all readers will join me in deeply thanking them for such an effort. I am also sure that the experiences described by the authors in the pages that follow will resonate with other librarians, information specialists, editors, and other professionals in the field.

In her letter, Maurella Della Seta, President of EAHIL, informs us of the results of the EAHIL elections. Be sure not to miss her report which contains extremely relevant information for our Association.

As you may see from the Table below, the next issue of *JEAHIL* (December) will be about Climate Change. Let us know if you wish to contribute. We would be delighted to hear from you.

Future JEAHIL issues

| Issue | Theme | Deadline |
|--------------|--|-----------------|
| 2020 | | |
| 4 (December) | Climate change and libraries edited by Maria-Inti Metzendorf, Irma Klerings, Helge Knüttel and Gerhard Bissels | 5 November |
| 2021 | | |
| 1 (March) | 17th EAHIL Conference, Łódź, Poland, online | 5 February |
| 2 (June) | Artificial intelligence edited by James Thomas | 5 May |

Titles in this table are provisional

*Hoping we will all adjust to and possibly enjoy our new normal
I wish you all the best Federica*